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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.44

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.44 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (A/C.5/62/17).

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide additional funds and human resources within the existing resources of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enable the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to respond positively and effectively to the growing needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and in developing a culture of democracy and rule of law in the Central African subregion.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the requests are described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the statement, and information on the estimated resource requirements is provided in paragraphs 7 to 9. The Secretary-General estimates that the additional requirements for strengthening the capacity of the Centre would amount to $520,100 net ($573,600 gross) under section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, including $381,100 for

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posts and $139,000 for non-post resources. The Secretary-General indicates that those resources cannot be accommodated from within existing resources and proposes that they be charged against the contingency fund, with an additional appropriation under the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009.

4. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly requested the Secretary-General to ensure funding for the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa as an integral part of the regular budget for human rights, first in paragraph 132 of its resolution 56/253 and again in paragraph 3 of its resolution 61/158. The Advisory Committee has recommended that appropriate proposals be made to the Assembly at its sixty-second session for the full implementation of resolution 61/158, and requested that future budget submissions include a subsection on the requirements of the Subregional Centre.[1]

5. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should implement paragraph 3 of resolution 61/158. In this connection, it notes that a total amount of $112,835,400 is requested under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Upon request, the Committee was informed that total expenditure under section 23 for the programme budget for 2006-2007 was projected at $81,528,300 against an appropriation of $88,009,100. There is thus a projected underexpenditure of $6,480,800, or 7.4 per cent. Given past patterns of expenditure, the Committee is of the view that the overall resources requested in the programme budget for 2008-2009 under section 23 should allow the Secretary-General to provide the additional amount of $520,100 requested for the Subregional Centre.

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.44, additional resources totalling $573,600 would be required over and above the level of resources proposed for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as follows: $520,100 under section 23, Human rights, and $53,500 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

7. **In view of its aforementioned observations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to accommodate the additional requirement of $573,600 from within the resources provided for in the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009 under section 23. The Committee further recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this mandate in the context of the performance report for the biennium 2008-2009.**

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/62/7), para. VI.18.